

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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FOR SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER FROM NEA/P, SHERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONDON MEETING

REF: LONDON 10934

1. PER OUR CONVERSATION BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE FROM
WASHINGTON, I HAVE BEEN PURSUING WITH EMBASSY LONDON
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES
EXPECTED TO COVER THE LONDON MEETING OF SECRETARY VANCE
WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS KAMEL AND DAYAN. BILL HAMILTON,
PRESS ATTACHE AT EMBASSY LONDON, IS ON TOP OF THINGS AND IS
IN CONTACT WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES, EGYPTIAN AND
ISRAELI EMBASSIES THERE ON ARRANGEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING
THINKING ON BACKGROUNDING, PRESS BRIEFINGS AND PHYSICAL
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ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HAL SAUNDERS AND ROY
ATHERTON, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONCURRENCE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH HAMILTON TO MAKE FINAL
ARRANGEMENTS.

2. CREDENTIALS.

SINCE THE MEETING IS NOT A FORMAL CONFERENCE AND WILL BE HELD IN HOTEL ROOMS, NO SEPARATE CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED TO THE PRESS. BRITISH, FOREIGN AND RESIDENT

AMERICAN PRESS IN LONDON HAVE CREDENTIALS KNOWN TO U.S. EMBASSY LONDON WHICH CAN BE USED. WE ARE ASKING EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI EMBASSIES TO SUPPLY US NAMES OF THEIR CORRESPONDENTS WHO WILL BE COVERING. AMERICAN PRESS TRAVELLING WITH SECRETARY CAN USE STATE DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS.

3. BACKGROUNDING.

PER OUR OWN DISCUSSION, ROY ATHERTON AND HAL SAUNDERS COULD GIVE A BACKGROUNDER TO RESIDENT AMERICAN, BRITISH, AND FOREIGN (INCLUDING ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN) CORRESPONDENTS MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17, PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN LONDON. THIS WOULD BE THE COUNTER-PART TO THE BRIEFING THE PRESS TRAVELLING WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD RECEIVE BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL IN LONDON THAT DAY. THOSE INVITED TO THE LONDON BRIEFING SHOULD BE NOTIFIED THIS FRIDAY BEFORE THE WEEKEND, SO WE NEED TO HAVE SOONEST YOUR AGREEMENT TO THIS SCENARIO.

WE ENVISAGE A LOW-KEYED BACKGROUNDER FOLLOWING THE LINES OF THE GUIDANCE ON THE LONDON MEETING IN THE SECRETARY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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BOOK FOR HIS PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 10. IT WOULD PREPARE THE PRESS FOR NOT EXPECTING HEADLINE STORIES DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS OF TALKS, WHILE UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS. UP TO 100 CORRESPONDENTS MIGHT ATTEND, A LARGE GROUP FOR A BACKGROUNDER. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE ROY OR HAL SHOULD GO ON-THE-RECORD JUST BEFORE THE SECRETARY ARRIVES, NOR DO WE WANT TO PUT OURSELVES FORWARD AS "SPOKESMAN" FOR THE MEETING. GIVEN THE KIND OF GENERAL RUNDOWN WE PLAN SO AS TO HAVE OUR INPUT IN FIRST-DAY STORIES ON THE MEETING, USING THE BACKGROUND FORMAT THIS ONE TIME FOR A LARGER GROUP SEEMS PREFERABLE. NO NOSES IN THE PRESS CORPS WOULD BE OUT OF JOINT. THEN WE COULD DECIDE LATER ON SMALLER MORE RESTRICTED BACKGROUNDRERS DURING AND AFTER THE MEETING.

4. DAILY BRIEFINGS.

IF THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN SPOKESMEN AGREE, YOU COULD ALL GIVE READOUTS JOINTLY AT AGREED TIMES EACH DAY, THOUGH THE TIMING AND FORMAT OF THESE WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED ONCE EVERYONE IS IN LONDON.

4. PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE AUDITORIUM IN U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY LONDON, WITHIN

WALKING DISTANCE OF THE HOTEL, SEEMS THE BEST LOCATION FOR THE MONDAY BACKGROUNDER AND ANY ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS. ITS SIZE AND LOCATION AWAY FROM THE MEETINGS REDUCE SECURITY PROBLEMS AND CONFUSION OF BRIEFINGS FOR SIZEABLE NUMBERS OF CORRESPONDENTS AT THE HOTEL. IF YOU ARE TO GIVE JOINT DAILY BRIEFINGS, THIS SITE WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREED WITH THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN SPOKESMEN.

THE HOTEL FACILITY WHICH EMBASSY IS SETTING UP FOR THE
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PRESS IS IN HALF OF THE HOTEL BALLROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHERE TYPEWRITERS, TELEX EQUIPMENT, TELEPHONES, ETC. WILL BE LOCATED. THIS IS LARGE ENOUGH FOR BRIEFINGS (100 CHAIRS), IF THE EMBASSY CHANCERY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, THOUGH ITS LOCATION ON THE HOTEL GROUND FLOOR NEXT TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM PRESENTS THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY AND MILLING CONGREGATIONS OF JOURNALISTS. HAMILTON ALSO SAYS BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES HAVE OFFERED THEIR FACILITIES AS BACKSTOP IF NEEDED FOR GENERAL BRIEFINGS, BUT THEIR GREATER DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL AND EMBASSY WORK AGAINST USING THIS SITE.

IN ADDITION A MORE PRIVATE PRESS ROOM FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION IS BEING SET ASIDE UPSTAIRS IN HOTEL FOR OUR OWN USE.

I HAVE ARRANGED TO TELEPHONE BILL HAMILTON AT 1530 HOURS LOCAL LONDON TIME WEDNESDAY, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTION TO ABOVE BY THEN. CHRISTOPHER

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